

Message

From: Pualani, Barbara [Pualani.Barbara@epa.gov]
Sent: 10/7/2020 5:19:24 PM
To: Sopkin, Gregory [sopkin.gregory@epa.gov]; Thomas, Deb [thomas.debrah@epa.gov]; Wood, MelanieL [Wood.MelanieL@epa.gov]; Smith, Mark A. [Smith.Marka@epa.gov]; Morlock, Nancy [morlock.nancy@epa.gov]
CC: Mylott, Richard [Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]; Mutter, Andrew [mutter.andrew@epa.gov]; Heffernan, Daniel [Heffernan.Daniel@epa.gov]; Darling, Corbin [Darling.Corbin@epa.gov]; Sethuraman, Jag [Sethuraman.Jag@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: For Review: EJ CPS grant award selectee press release

Apologies. My response must not have gone through. The highlighted portions are added content—the rest is HQ boilerplate.

Media Contact:

Barbara Khan (pualani.barbara@epa.gov)
720-595-8698

EPA announces selection of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to receive \$120,000 for oil spill emergency planning
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe one of 18 organizations selected nationwide for Collaborative Problem-Solving Agreements

FORT YATES, ND (October XX, 2020) – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the selection of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to receive an award of \$120,000 in Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Agreements for emergency planning for oil spills. Today's agreement is one of 18 selected community-based organizations nationwide, totaling \$2.1 million in funding distributed this year under EJCPS Cooperative Agreements. EPA anticipates that it will make the award once all legal and administrative requirements are satisfied.

"We are very pleased to announce the selection of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe as an awardee for funding that will allow the tribe, with support of EPA and other partners, to better plan for oil spill emergencies," **said Regional Administrator Greg Sopkin**. "The agreement will empower tribal communities, for the first time, to contribute to effectively combating the potential hazards from oil spills."

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe will use the funds awarded through EJCPS to build capacity for responding to potential Dakota Access Pipeline oil leaks or spills under Lake Oahe. The project will focus on the development and improvement of community-based emergency action plans, as well as training for tribal emergency leaders and responders. Key partners in the project include North Dakota Emergency Services, Chief Oilfield Services, LLC, North Dakota Environmental Quality, Standing Rock Department of Environmental Regulations, and EPA. A portion of the Standing Rock Reservation is a Qualified Opportunity Zone.

This year's EJCPS projects include reducing sources of air pollution, reducing lead exposure in homes of low-income residents, and reducing illegal dumping on tribal lands. 88% of this year's recipients are in communities with Opportunity Zones, which were created under the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, signed into law by President Trump. Nearly 35 million Americans live in communities designated as Qualified Opportunity Zones.

Background:

The EJCPS Cooperative Agreement Program provides funding for non-profit and tribal organizations to partner with stakeholders from across industry, government, and academia to develop and implement solutions that significantly address environmental and/or public health issues in their communities. These projects support local problem solving through the development of sustainable partnerships. This program provides funds for community driven solutions to local, environmental problems.

Qualified Opportunity Zones are census tracts of low-income and distressed communities designated by state governors and certified by the Department of Treasury. These are areas where new investment may be eligible for preferential tax treatment. As of April 2019, there were more than 8,700 designated Qualified Opportunity Zones located in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and five United States territories.

For a description of all winners nationwide, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-4>

For more information about EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-0>

[Learn more about Opportunity Zones by visiting the federal Opportunity Zones website.](#)

Barbara Khan
Media Officer
U.S. EPA – Region 8 Public Affairs
pualani.barbara@epa.gov
720-595-8698

From: Sopkin, Gregory <sopkin.gregory@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 11:17 AM
To: Pualani, Barbara <Pualani.Barbara@epa.gov>; Thomas, Deb <thomas.debrah@epa.gov>; Wood, Melaniel <Wood.Melaniel@epa.gov>; Smith, Mark A. <Smith.Marka@epa.gov>; Morlock, Nancy <morlock.nancy@epa.gov>
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I sent to you yesterday the question - Can you show me which is the HQ boilerplate and which is the R8-added content? – and have not received a response. Please send a response – thanks.

From: Pualani, Barbara <Pualani.Barbara@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 10:59 AM
To: Sopkin, Gregory <sopkin.gregory@epa.gov>; Thomas, Deb <thomas.debrah@epa.gov>; Wood, Melaniel <Wood.Melaniel@epa.gov>; Smith, Mark A. <Smith.Marka@epa.gov>; Morlock, Nancy <morlock.nancy@epa.gov>
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Subject: RE: For Review: EJ CPS grant award selectee press release

Hi Greg,

Sending a friendly reminder that the EJ CPS press release and your quote are still pending review. Would you have a moment today to take a look?

Aiming to send this up to Regional Press by COB.

Thank you,

Barbara Khan
Media Officer

U.S. EPA – Region 8 Public Affairs

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720-595-8698

From: Pualani, Barbara

Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 11:57 AM

To: Sopkin, Gregory <sopkin.gregory@epa.gov>; Thomas, Deb <thomas.debrah@epa.gov>; Wood, Melaniel <Wood.Melaniel@epa.gov>; Smith, Mark A. <Smith.Marka@epa.gov>; Morlock, Nancy <morlock.nancy@epa.gov>

Cc: Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>; Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>; Heffernan, Daniel <Heffernan.Daniel@epa.gov>; Darling, Corbin <Darling.Corbin@epa.gov>

Subject: For Review: EJ CPS grant award selectee press release

Hi Greg/Mark/Melanie,

Please see below for your review a draft press release announcing the selection of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to receive EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving grant funding. I've highlighted the RA draft quote.

The release includes boilerplate from HQ. Additional content on the awardee was developed in coordination with Michael Wenstrom. We are aiming to issue this no later than Thursday, October 8. We will notify state, local and congressionals.

Thank you for your review and feedback.

Barbara Khan

Media Officer

U.S. EPA – Region 8 Public Affairs

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Facebook: [U.S. EPA Region 8](https://www.facebook.com/USEPARegion8)

Webpage: [EPA Region 8](https://www.epa.gov/region8) (Mountains and Plains)



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For more information about EPA’s Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-0>

[Learn more about Opportunity Zones by visiting the federal Opportunity Zones website.](#)